

The Connecticut General Assembly

House Democrats



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STATE REP. DAVID ARCONTI LAUDS EDUCATION RULING

State Representative David Arconti (D-Danbury) lauded the recent court decision that will require the state to overhaul the statutory school funding formula to improve the overall education system and address the numerous educational failings across the state.

A Connecticut Judge gave the state 180 days to come up with alternatives to fix the flawed Education Cost Sharing Formula (ECS) including special education programs and teacher's evaluations.

"I am extremely pleased with the timing of this decision," **Rep. Arconti** stated. "During my last four years in the legislature, I have fought adamantly to protect Danbury's education fair share and ensuring that our students get the resources they need to succeed, including funding and school construction projects."

The Superior Court decision, announced Wednesday, included sharp criticism of Connecticut's education investments which lack mandatory guarantees to direct aid where it is needed most, citing instances where the legislature moved funding from poor towns to affluent ones.

Arconti said, "While Danbury has seen increments in ECS funding during the last few years, we, as well as neighboring towns continue to be underfunded."

In 2014, education funding to Danbury increased to \$27.5 million and in years 2016 and 2017 it is estimated that it will receive \$30.7 million and \$31.6 million respectively. Additionally, Danbury's schools received more than \$50 million in school construction grants for overall improvements and upgrades during the last four years.

"Education is the foundation of our communities and as such we must continue to provide the best available tools to educators, administrators and students across the state in a balanced and reasonable way," **Rep. Arconti** added. "While I realize this decision could be appealed, this should serve as a strong and clear message to us. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Hartford to find viable alternatives to the broken education funding system."

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